

REMARKS

Claims 54-65 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) on the grounds of anticipation by Ferrera et al. The Examiner indicated that Figure 3 of Ferrera et al. shows a coil structure and shows the ends of the coil as having loops that are "partly open curves". The Examiner also referred to Figure 8 of Ferrera et al. as showing a coil with a loop or a partially open curve at both the distal and proximal ends. It is respectfully submitted that neither Figure 3 nor Figure 8 of Ferrera et al. show the ends of the coil, and that there is no teaching, disclosure or suggestion in Ferrera et al. of "a vasoocclusive coil having a primary coil configuration with a loop at least one end," as is recited in claim 54.

The Examiner referred to "the coil" in Figure 8 of Ferrera et al. as including a loop, or partial open curve, at both distal and proximal ends, however it is clear from the illustration in Figure 8 that the ends of the essential spherical device 18, described at column 10, about line 33, is only a partial, general depiction of an essentially spherical device, and does not depict the ends of the device. On the contrary, Figures 6 and 7, described at the bottom of column 9, show a distal end of the coil 16 as having an end cap, and the coil is shown only partially, having broken section lines in the middle, and not showing the nature of the proximal end of the coil.

Similarly, Figure 3 of Ferrera et al. is not described in the specification as showing the ends of the coil, and it is respectfully submitted that the ends shown in Figure 3 do not depict the ends of the coil, but rather are a result of a partial showing of a portion of the coil. It is well known to those skilled in the art that such jagged open ends of a coil that the Examiner has referred to in Fig. 3 of Ferrera et al. can puncture or catch on the interior of a catheter lumen, or a vessel, and can otherwise traumatize a vessel, such as at the site of an aneurysm.

At page 3, lines 3-15, the specification of the present application describes a vasocclusive coil with coiled ends, and an embolization coil having a single closed loop, as well as an embolism forming device having end-caps to prevent the device from

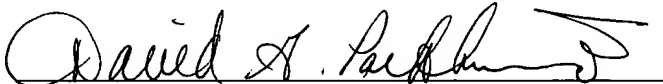
catching on the interior of the catheter lumen or vessel. It should therefore be apparent that the ends of such a coil are not formed as shown in Figures 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 12, 14a, 14b, or 16 of the Ferrera et al., for the reason that such ends could clearly injure a patient's vasculature.

However, with conventional vasoocclusive coils having closed end loops or end caps, there is a greater chance of such a coil coming free from the location being treated and escaping into the vasculature than with the end loops of the coil of the present invention, as is described in the specification at page 5, lines 10-18, page 10, lines 18-25, and page 11, lines 2-7. It is considered significant that the loop at the end of the coil of the invention acts as an anchor to help prevent coil migration into the vasculature, and protects the vasculature from injury by the end of the coil. It is respectfully submitted that Ferrera et al. does not show, teach, disclose, or suggest such end loops, but rather teaches conventional end caps as shown in Figure 6 and 7. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 54-65 are novel and inventive over Ferrera et al., and that the rejection of claims 54-65 on the grounds of anticipation under 35 USC 102(e) by Ferrera et al. should be withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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